ICASA 2025 Ghana

1st ISC Meeting Report

28 - 29 Dec. 2024

icasa2025.saafrica.org

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AGENDA

28TH – 29TH November 2024, Alisa Hotel, Accra – Ghana

OBJECTIVES:

I.   Select an appropriate ICASA 2025 logo
II. Finalize ICASA 2025 Theme and Objectives
III. Agree on the key dates and road map
IV. Review ICASA abstract titles and sub-titles
V.   Identify best strategy for resource mobilization
VI. Ratify the Marketing and communication strategy for ICASA 2025
VII. Propose ICASA 2025 draft plenary session topics and speakers

CHAIR: Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa, ICASA 2025 President/Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA)
Guest of Honor – Hon Dr. Bernard Okoe-Boye, Minister for Health, Ghana

	Day 1: 28th November 2024	
Time	**Activities**	**Discussion Lead**
8:30 – 9:00	Registration of participants	Secretariat
9:00 – 9:15	**Opening Session** Welcoming address Introduction of participants	ICASA 2025 President
9:15 – 9:30	Welcome remarks of Guest of Honor	Minister for Health, Ghana
9:30 – 9:45	**Session 1: Presentation of SAA/ICASA** Presentation of SAA and ICASA Management & Conference structure	ICASA Director
9:45 – 10:00	**Session 2: Presentation of ICASA 2025 marketing plan Presentation** of the marketing plan and identification of best strategy for resource mobilization	SAA SG
10:00 – 10:15	**Session 3: Communication strategy Presentation** of the proposed communication strategy for ICASA 2025	Ghana AIDS Commission
10:15 – 10:45	**Tea Break**	
10:45 – 11:15	**Session 4: Presentation on Shortlisted ICASA 2025 Logo** Presentation of the shortlisted 10 best logos to the ISC for final selection	SAA Treasurer
11:15 – 11:45	**Session 5: Presentation of Shortlisted ICASA 2025 Theme and objectives**	SAA Vice President
11:45 – 12:15	**Group Work for selection of Theme and Objectives**	
12:15 – 12:30	**Session 6: Presentation of the Finalized Theme and Objectives for ICASA 2025**	SAA Vice President
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch**	

Time	Session	Responsible
13:30 – 13:50	**Session 7: Review of Draft Abstract titles and sub-titles**	Scientific committee chairs
13:50 – 14:00	**Wrap up of ISC meeting Day 1**	ICASA 2025 President
DAY 2: 29th November 2024		
9:00 – 9:10	**Recap of the Outcomes of Day 1**	ICASA 2025 President
9:10 – 9:55	**Session 8: ICASA 2025, Plenary session topics and proposition of speakers** Group discussion and proposition of plenary topics & speakers (Scientific, community and Leadership)	Scientific Programme Chair
9:55 – 10:25	**Session 9: Presentation from each Programme committee**	Programme Chairs
10:25 – 10:55	**Tea Break**	
10:55 – 11:10	**Session 10: Presentation of the draft preliminary programme**	ICASA Director
11:10 – 11:25	**Session 11: Presentation of ICASA 2025 Key date and road map**	NACP
11:25 – 11:40	**Session 12: Review of upcoming milestones and meetings**	ICASA Director
11:40 – 12:00	**Session 13: Online Evaluation of the ICASA 2025 1st steering Committee meeting**	All participants
12:00 – 12:15	**Wrap up and Closure of 1st ISC meeting**	ICASA 2025 President
12:15 – 12:30	**Group Photograph**	All Participants
12:30 – 13:15	**Lunch**	
13:15 – 14:00	**Press Conference – Launch of ICASA 2027 Bid**	

ICASA 2025 CALL FOR THEME AND OBJECTIVES

PROCESS OF PRE-SELECTION OF ICASA 2025 THEME AND OBJECTIVES

Based on the recommendation of the preselection committee to facilitate the shortlisting of the ICASA 2025 Theme and Objectives, the following decisions were taken:

1. All proposed theme without proposed objectives were disregarded
2. All proposed objective without theme were disregarded
3. Out of 167 proposals only 77 were considered based on the criteria

However, the committee further instructed the SAA Secretariat to screen the 77 proposals and propose the best with respect to the criteria.

4. 35 out of the 77 proposals were shortlisted for final selection at the 1st ISC meeting. The 35 proposals were classified as thus:

A. 14 out of 25 proposals contained a theme and 5 objectives.
B. 11 out 15 proposals contained a theme and more than 5 objectives.
C. 10 out 37 proposals contained a theme and less than 5 objectives.

NB: The remaining 42 will feature as an appendix to the 1st ISC working document for your perusal.

Each programme committee working group shortlisted a theme and a set of objectives (5 objectives) for deliberation at the plenary. All members of the International Steering committee unanimously validated the following:

ICASA 2025 THEME: Africa in Action: Catalyzing Integrated Sustainable Responses to end AIDS, TB and Malaria.

ICASA 2025 OBJECTIVES:

1. Catalysing Africa's progress towards triple elimination and sustainable resilient health systems through innovation and digital technologies.
2. Promote cooperation among governments, communities, private sector, and international organizations to enhance health security and improve pandemic preparedness and response.
3. Strengthen capacity and facilitate knowledge exchange for healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers.
4. Empower communities and promote human rights and gender equality in the context of HIV/AIDS and emerging and reemerging diseases.
5. Mobilize domestic resources and political commitment to sustain Africa's progress towards achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets and global health security goals.

ICASA 2025 LOGO

WINNER OF THE ICASA 2025 LOGO COMPETITION

NAME: JOSHUA ESEMEDAFE -   **COUNTRY:** NIGERIA

Out of 52 logos received, the logo above emerged as the best logo to represent ICASA 2025 Conference. 104 participants after validating the selection of the logo, called for amelioration of the logo. See below the updated logo based on the recommendation of the 1st ISC meeting:

VALIDATED ICASA 2025 PLENARY TOPICS

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

1. Therapeutics advanced: innovations and research for HIV, TB and Malaria / STIs.
2. Equitable access to innovative biomedical interventions for HIV/TB/Malaria in Africa.
3. Status (Epidemiology) of HIV in Africa : Where are we now?
4. The 10-10-10 societal enablers targets: Bold political leadership urgently needed.
5. Impact of emerging diseases on access to prevention and treatment of HIV, TB and Malaria.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

1. Innovative and sustainable Solutions for the fight against ATM (AIDS,TB and Malaria).
2. The race to ending HIV by 2030: Refocusing on children and young people.
3. Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR).
4. Harnessing digital innovations to revolutionise health systems: Opportunities for Global Impact.
5. The intersection of Climate Change and ATM: Challenges, Impact and Solutions for a sustainable future.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

1. Community-led data-driven responses: What works and what doesn't. The case of Key Vulnerable and aging, Populations in emerging health threats.
2. HIV Prevention Now: Centering, Adolescent Girls Young Women, and Pediatrics.
3. Sustainable response: Localization, Social enterprising and increasing resource mobilization/financing towards the end of HIV and emerging diseases in Africa.
4. Digital Health: Advancing Community-Led Solutions for Lasting Impact.
5. 5 years before 2030: The imperative of enhancing human rights to advance health.

NB: The ICASA Secretariat has noticed that the leadership programme proposed six thematic. However, the thematic on youth and adolescent are similar. The Secretariat provided more clarification and took into considerarion the PPPR.

The Call for plenary speakers; one main speaker and two backup speakers, will be effected from 27th January 2025 to 20th February 2025.

ICASA 2025 PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Time	Wednesday 3-Dec	Thursday 4-Dec	Friday 5-Dec	Saturday 6-Dec	Sunday 7-Dec	Monday 8-Dec
8:45 AM - 9:30 AM		Satellite Symposia	Satellite Symposia	Satellite Symposia	Satellite Symposia	Satellite Symposia
9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	9:45 AM - 10:30 AM Satellite Symposia	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Plenary Session
10:30 AM - 10:50 AM		Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:50 AM - 11: 35 AM	10:45 AM - 11:30 AM Satellite Symposia	Abstract-Driven Session	Abstract-Driven Session	Parallel Session	Parallel Session	Abstract-Driven Session
11:35 AM - 11:55 AM		Break/Poster Exhibition	Break/Poster Exhibition	Break/Poster Exhibition	Break/Poster Exhibition	Break/Poster Exhibition
11:55 AM - 12:40 PM	11:45 AM - 12:30 PM Satellite Symposia	Parallel Session	Parallel Session	Satellite Symposia	Abstract-Driven Session	Rapporteur Session/Closing ceremony
12: 40 PM - 13:00 PM		Break	Break	Break	Break	
13:00 PM - 13:45 PM	12:45 PM- 13:30 PM Satellite Symposia	Abstract-Driven Session	Parallel Session	Parallel Session	Abstract-Driven Session	
13:45 PM: 14:05 PM		Break	Break	Break	Break	
14:05 PM - 14:50 PM	13:45 PM - 14:30 PM Satellite Symposia	Parallel Session	Satellite Symposia	Parallel Session	Abstract-Driven Session	
14:50 PM - 15:10 PM		Break	Break	Break	Break	
15:10 PM - 15:55 PM	14:45 PM - 15:30 PM Satellite Symposia	Satellite Symposia	Satellite Symposia	Satellite Symposia	Satellite Symposia	
15:55 PM - 16:15 PM		Break/Poster Exhibition	Break/Poster Exhibition	Break/Poster Exhibition	Break/Poster Exhibition	
	Opening ceremony					

CALL FOR ICASA 2025 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

As part of the upcoming activities leading to the 2nd International Steering committee meeting from 28th March to 1st April 2025, the ICASA Secretariat is pleased to announce the ICASA 2025 call for propositions for concurrent sessions.

The Call will be launched from 27th January 2025. The deadline for submission is 15th March 2025. The secretariat is expecting members to submit 1 thematic, 3 speakers and 3 back up speakers. Each speaker has 15min of presentation.

Each session is scheduled for 45 minutes with a maximum of 3 speakers. As such, the three ICASA 2025 Programme committees are required to provide the following number of sessions per session type:

SESSION TYPE	SCIENTIFIC PROGAMME	LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME	COMMUNITY PROGRAMME
SPECIAL SESSION	5	5	5
NON-ABSTRACT DRIVEN SESSION	5	5	5
WORKSHOP	3	3	3

Validation of all concurrent sessions will take place at the upcoming 2nd ISC meeting in March 2025.

ICASA 2025 Scientific programme committee members should kindly send submissions to scientificprogramme@saafrica.org

ICASA 2025 Leadership programme committee members should kindly send submissions to leadershipprogramme@saafrica.org

ICASA 2025 Community programme committee members should kindly send submissions to communityprogramme@saafrica.org

ICASA 2025 KEY DATES

Key Dates	Open	Close
Call for ICASA 2025 logo	12th September 2024	25th October 2024
Call for ICASA 2025 Thematics	12th September 2024	25th October 2024
ISC Proposed membership	5th September 2024	30th September 2024
ICC Members	5th September 2024	30th September 2024
1st ISC meeting	28th November 2024	29th November 2024
Call for Abstract	1st March 2025	30th May 2025, 24.00 GMT
Early Registration	1st March 2025	30th May 2025, 24.00 GMT
2nd ISC meeting	29th March 2025	1st April 2025
Adoption of Draft Budget	29th March 2025	1st April 2025
Call for Abstract reviewers	3rd February 2025	30th May 2025
Regular Registration	1st June 2025	31st August 2025, 24.00 GMT
Exhibition Booking	1st March 2025	31st August 2025
Satellite Session Booking	1st March 2025	31st August 2025
Late Registration	1st September 2025	31st October 2025, 24.00 GMT
Scholarship Application	3rd July 2025	31st July 2025
Reviewing of Abstracts	7th July 2025	7th August 2025
Letters to speakers	15th April 2025	30th May 2025
Feedback from speakers	30th May 2025	15th June 2025
Marathon Meeting	18th August 2025	21st August 2025
Notice of Acceptance, Abstract	25th August 2025	29th August 2025
Announcement of Recipient Scholarship	29th August 2025	1st September 2025
ICASA 2025 Online Programme	15th September 2025	
ICASA 2025 Conference Date	3rd December 2025	8th December 2025

Proposed ISC Meeting Key Dates

1st ISC Meeting
Date: 28th – 29th November 2024
Arrival: 27th November 2024
Meeting: 28th – 29th November 2024
Departure: 30th November 2024

2nd ISC Meeting
Date: 29th March – 30th March 2025
Arrival: 28th March 2025
Meeting: 29th – 30th March 2025
Departure: 31st March 2025

Marathon Meeting
Date: 18th -21st August 2025
Arrival: 17th August 2025
Meeting:18th –21st August 2025
Departure: 22nd August 2025

ICASA 2027 CALL FOR BID

INVITATIONAL BID TO HOST THE 24th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AIDS AND STIs IN AFRICA (ICASA 2027)

GROUP PHOTO OF ICASA 2025 MOU SIGNING WITH H.E. NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, HON. DR. DAVID PAGWESESE PARIRENYATWA, ICASA 2025 PRESIDENT, DR. EMMY CHESIRE, SAA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER AND MR. LUC ARMAND BODEA, ICASA DIRECTOR

The Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), represented by its President; **Hon. Dr. David Pagwesese Parirenyatwa**, hereby invites **African countries** wishing to host the 24th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa in 2027 (ICASA 2027) to send in their application bid document to the SAA Secretariat in Accra- Ghana. The closing date for submission of the Application is **Thursday, 31st July 2025.**

ICASA 2027 will be the 24th edition of the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa, to be organised by the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA).

Any **African country** is eligible to be considered to host ICASA. However, certain criteria must be fulfilled to qualify for selection.

The procedure for application is as follows:

STEP 1

Interested countries should submit a bid document of intent to the SAA Secretariat backed up with detailed proof of evidence of the following information:

1. Strong Government support: financial commitment and political will to host the conference.
   - Provide and financially support the Conference venue: Capacity of Plenary rooms: 5000 seats with at least 5 break way rooms with a capacity from 150 to 1500 seats.
   - Provide financial support for the local Secretariat working with the International secretariat.
   - Provide Scholarships for at least 500 local Participants.
2. Availability of standard hotels to accommodate up to 10,000 participants as well as conference venue(s) with standard conference facilities.
3. Good transportation network within the country.
4. Good telecommunication network within the host country with links to other African countries and international communities.
5. Presence of cohorts of scientific, leadership, civil societies, organised groups of PLHIV, private sector, and youth organisations oriented towards HIV/AIDS-related activities.
6. Easy access by air and by the road where needed.
7. Recognizable presence of Government organ/body responsible for HIV/AIDS coordination in the country.
8. Good security network to guarantee participants' safety.
9. Guarantee easy visa facilities and assistance to conference participants and no restriction to entry for PLHIV, MSM and other minority groups.
10. Political stability.
11. No discriminatory government policies based on gender, HIV status and religion.

The detailed bid document of intent backed up with evidence should reach the Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) Permanent Secretariat both by email, attachments and by courier services to the SAA President:

Society for AIDS in AFRICA
SAA Permanent Secretariat Accra
P.O. Box 2072
Plot Container 58 Otano Estates,
Behind NHTC, Adjiringanor, East Legon
Mob: (+ 233) 54 37 48 78 1
Office Line: (+ 233) 30 39 36 814
Email: ICASA2027bid@saafrica.org
Website: www.saafrica.org
Accra- Ghana

STEP 2

(a)   Submitted applications will be evaluated by Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA) paid members, whereby 2 countries will be pre-selected based on meeting the criteria as listed in Step 1.

(b)   Assessment visits will be conducted by 3 SAA's Council members to the preselected countries. The preselected countries will invite SAA for the two days assessment visit **15th September 2025 to 26th September 2025.**

Please note:

I.   The pre-selection process will be concluded from **30th September 2025,** followed by the notification to the 2 countries.

II.   After SAA Council members' assessment visit and deliberation, the host country of ICASA 2027 will be notified on the Friday, **31st October 2025,** followed by a press communiqué/release.

III.   Before the official announcement of the host country of ICASA 2027, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between the selected country and Society for AIDS in Africa (SAA), the organiser of ICASA.

IV.   SAA President is ICASA 2027 Chair; the host country will appoint a Co-chair for ICASA 2027 in consultation with SAA. The Council reserves the right to revoke the hosting rights of a country if there are reasonable doubts about its ability to deliver.

ICASA 2025 1ˢᵗ ISC Meeting Photo Gallery

For more photos, [click here](#).

Martin Mary Falana and Prof. Prof. Sheila Tlou, celebrates their birthday during ICASA 2025 1ˢᵗ ISC Meeting

ICASA 2025 ISC Members tour the city of Accra at the Kwame Nkrumah Museum after the meeting session.

SAA PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

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Accra, Ghana

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Behind NHTC, Adjiringanor

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